

H.C. Burleigh

Families

Mosher

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Replied Tues Feb 5/80

Elizabeth Mosher
1101 North 12th St. Apt. 2
Tacoma, Washington 98403

Jan. 28, 1980

Dear Dr. Burleigh

I have been working for a number of years on my Mosher lineage, from Hugh Mosher of Dartmouth (1633), as it moved from the Dartmouth-Rhode Island area, into Old Dutchess County N.Y., up the Hudson River and into Lake Champlain country where my father was born at St. Albans, Vermont. On learning that cousins of my Quaker line were United Empire Loyalists, I visited the Adolphustown Museum on a trip back to Vermont and New York in 1978. I purchased Fryer's "Loyalist Spy", and your story of the Freeman's of Saratoga. Donald Paul gave me your address.

I wanted to compare notes with you about the Freemans, especially the date and circumstances of John Freeman's death. Your story rang a bell, since I had just learned of the 3 Freeman children in 1976 when I was spending some time

in Vermont and New York, and read from
the files of the Stillwater historian,
assembled them the years. The rather
small folder marked Mosher-Freeman
chiefly contained letters - inquiry about either
family, many letters providing information
about Lewis Mosher from Lotta Struthers
of Ste-Lux-Moix Quebec. One letter written
in 1942 by W. R. Freeman of Brighton, Ont.
to the Congregational Minister in Stillwater
was asking about the Freemans of the
area before the war. There was no copy
of a reply in the file, tho possibly
some material was sent at that time.
Mr. Freeman spoke of the Loyalists
who left the Schuylerville area in
1782 for Canada, and spoke of the
Freeman family of 11 people where
only three young children survived
the trip, "to carry on the name of that
branch". I had learned that Loyalist
families left for Canada over a wide
range of time, some fleeing early when

pressures were great, some following their men folk as opportunity allowed. One might assume the Freemans left early, but whether accompanying the father, or making the long, hazardous trip thru wilderness and the Lake Champlain route, with or without escort, seems not to be recorded. If the father was pressed into duty as a guide, ^{to Burgoyne} as early as 1775, the family may have followed. Mary Beacock Fryer, in her "Carefully researched material in The Loyalist Spy" says in her notes on Chapter 3, p. 225, "Freeman had already fled to Quebec" before the Saratoga Convention. Presumably he anticipated trouble and arranged for his family to move toward Quebec, when he took up his duties in 1775. There must have been haste

and pressure on the family for them to risk so much. Certainly the small-pox was epidemic on the Richelieu and the Lakes, with troop movements and military records confirming this.

Richard Patterson's research in Haldimand papers did not give added clues to how or when the Freeman's came, or what happened along the way, other than that three young Freemans were being cared for by persons in Quebec who claimed rations for them, and that Dorcas and Mary, on reaching maturity married young men who had probably been neighbors and friends in the Saratoga area. The little brother may have been with military families then not with his sisters at South River.

In 1974, on a visit to Vermont, I visited Kenneth and Rutka Struthers at their home in Ile Aux Noix, since they

were looking for Mosher antecedents also. They were both descended from Charles Mosher and Catherine Harrington who had settled on Grand Isle Vermont where their older children were born. However, by 1818 they moved to Quebec to prove up a place on South River which Charles had inherited from his father, but which was threatened in a tax sale suit for lack of development, in the Moyan Ceignivory (near present day Kenningville.) Charles was helped by his oldest son John Mosher to clear the land which produced grain and beef to feed the military Garrison on Isle Aux Noix nearby. John became a wealthy land owner, and many of his descendants live in the Clarenceville and Moyan areas today. Others returned to Grand Isle, Vermont.

Research done by Richard Patterson, (a relative of theirs and historian of the Richelieu Valley) indicated that

Lewis Mosher and Mary Freeman were living on South River while Lewis had perjured duty with the Queens Royal Rangers, and that they claimed rations for themselves and a child born 1778. Since Charles Mosher was born in 1778, and he inherited the Mosher place on South River, it was assumed for several years, that Lewis was Charles' father, until proven that Lewis and Mary's first child was Phebe, born 1778.

Although this knowledge proved Lewis was not Charles' father (and to this day we haven't learned who he was) we both felt so close to Lewis and Mary that we wanted to learn more about them. It is quite possible that Lewis was a close relative (nephew or cousin?) of Charles' father, and arranged for the South River place which had been home for ten years (1778-1788) -

to go to him, when Kaldemond required
 the Loyalists in Quebec to go to Ontario,
 or have their rations cut off. You are
 probably familiar with the dilemma
 of the Missisquoi Loyalists there.
 We note John Scott had settled at
 Corle after leaving prison. These
 homes had crops planted, land cleared,
 and such good growing conditions,
 that the Loyalists resented being uprooted,
 for the howling wilderness of Ontario.
 I have seen this Mosher homestead
 on South River where the Struthers
 grandparents visited as children, and
 have a keen personal interest in
 the place (no longer a Mosher property
 since the French have taken it over).
 At one time, there was the suggestion
 that my own great great grandfather,
William Mosher, ^{of Queensbury, N.Y.} was father of Charles

Mosher, as well as of his son Calvin Mosher.
I have disproved this from our family
records, but I believe the Mayberry
Library in Chicago has casually assembled
data on Mosher which gives the
wrong impression.

Since we do not know Charles
paternity, but assume Lewis Mosher
had quite likely a degree of kinship,
I am intrigued with the challenge
of learning Lewis' paternity, and
kinship to Cpl. Nicholas Mosher, a
Loyalist Spy, whose parents and lineage
we do know. (Nicholas and Rebecca
Milcox Mosher) If Lewis was a brother
of Nick the Spy, the problem is solved.
We feel sure that John Freeman
helped his family could find shelter
near the military garrisons where he
was employed in scouting for
Burgoyne, and may himself have

helped them to some kind of lodging
 on South River - or he may ~~had~~ have
 had no contact with them after
 he joined Burgoyne in 1755. Whether
 they found log homes in this Quebec
 wilderness, or had to make their
 own is conjectural. Certainly the French
 settlers had a few farms (and villages
 established, but chiefly along the River,
 near Forts and safety. So the Royalist
 families fleeing to Quebec woods and streams
 may have had only their own primitive
 huts at the start. Here Mary and Darcas,
 with Tom, made their home for about
 10 years before having to carve a
 second home out of the Ontario
 wilderness by 1788.

United Empire Loyalist records
 show they had three children under
 ten, when they took up land in
 E District, Augusta. He later

lived in Lansdowne. Another member of the Queens Royal Rangers, Cpl. Nicholas Mosher (who had been recruited by Col. John Peters in the Hampshire Grants), and later served under Capt. John W. Meyers in 1783, also lived in E District at Augusta. Nicholas was married to Sarah Allen. Nicholas seems to have been born about 1752, and Lewis about 1756, so they could have both been children of Nicholas and Rebecca Mosher (who were first cousins, and both of the lineage of Hugh Mosher of Dartmouth by his oldest son, Nicholas)

UEL records list names of Lewis and Mary Freeman Mosher's nine children, with their spouses, and the date of their acquiring land. Nicholas and Sarah Allen Mosher had six daughters, no sons. Lewis Mosher's last four children were sons, John who married Caroline Monroe and lived in Kingston, Lewis Jr., Nicholas, and Reuben who settled on Walpe Island. We know that John had four children who acquired land, William in 1837, Joseph 1839

⁶
James in 1831 (was he the oldest?) and Mary
who married John Sheriff of Kingston
in 1833.

Nicholas Mosher's daughters married
as follows, and acquired land:

Delilah m. William Lee of Ernestown 1806
Margaret m. Francis Hamblin of Augusta 1815
Ruth m. Thomas Gage of Hope 1816
Mary got land 1816

Sarah m. John Gilbert of Hansdowne 1823
Lucy m. — Griffin of Shubbs 1834

I learned a widow Mosher lived at Cockport
but was unable to get further data on her.

My friends, the brothers of De Aux Noix
have no Freeman history in the family, but
since they live on location where Royalists
were settled along the Richelieu River,
it seems reasonable that the three
Freeman children who claimed South
River as a home for 10 years (1778-1788)
did occupy the land which later was
developed by Charles and John Mosher
and counted Mosher homestead, til sold

around the 1890s when French families crowded out English speaking ones, who moved south to Clarenceville.

I enclose material secured thru the years from the Struthers when they first thought Lewis was father Charles. It ties the story together, and you will note the journals of two Army Chaplains, one Rebel, one British who reported John Freeman's death at the siege of the Fort at St Jean, probably Oct. 14, 1775, when Yankee troops were retreating from their defeat at Quebec City. It seems sad that the Freeman children, living so near, had no specific word of this and only vague guesses as to their father's fate years later. With confusion and poor communication on a wilderness frontier, it is understandable that many families never learned

where, or when, or if their menfolk
died in battle. These two documents
were not official military reports
of course. I feel you might
want to supplement your story
with this data, and if you are in
touch with Freeman descendants, they
may be interested.

I wondered if you have a Freeman
connection through John Freeman's
sister Dorcas who married John
Burley? You speak of their being
residents of Crum Elbow Precinct.
There were Mosher's in Crum Elbow
from 1753 til 1879, all cousins of my
line who lived in Beckman Precinct, later
migrating into Saratoga and Washington
Counties, as well as going to Canada.

I have added material of Bredenberg's
about the Loyalist Blockhouse on North
Hero Island in Lake Champlain where
Sherwood and Ethan Allen met, and
Cpl. Nicholas Mosher was involved. Some

of the recruits Nicholas had with him may have been neighbors and relatives.

If you are in touch with any of the Mosher descendants in Ontario, they may be interested to know that a Mosher genealogy is to be published soon on lineages of Hugh of Dartmouth's children. Ontario Mosher would be descendants of one of his five sons, Nicholas (b. 1666) John (1668) Joseph (1670) James (1675) and Daniel (1678). He had two daughters, Mary (b. 1679) and Rebecca (1677). Mrs. Laura Clarenbach of Madison, Wisconsin and Mrs. Mildred Mosher Chamberlain of Warwick P.I. are collaborating on this.

In event you can contact Mosher in the Kingston and Wolfe Island areas who might have sufficient family history to give clues as to Lewis Mosher's parents, I would appreciate paying for the research time, if you give me your rates. (My lineage is from James Mosher)

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mosher

Excerpt:

John Freeman

From the Fort Ticonderoga Museum Bulletin Vol. 1, No. 4 p 23

Nov. 3, 1775

St. Johns

From the Diary of Rev. Benj. Trumbull, Chaplain - Rev. forces

*Sheriff's 1818
p. 3*

No Lt. John Freeman, 7th Regt., was killed about 4 days before the
Surrender of the Forts, by a Canon Ball from our East Battery.

*another duplicate
made with
Hildesheim
Bib. Hant*

Dear Gen & Lutka

I came across the above unexpectedly recently among the Bredenberg
Papers. I can't recall if whether or not I have already given you
a copy of it. It does not coincide with the copy you gave me of
Thomas Freeman's Claim, in which it states that his father, John
Freeman, died at St. Johns, 1777. The 7th Regt. is not on the
official list of British regular regiments stationed on Ile aux Noix,
but this does not mean that the 7th Regt. was not on the island at
one time or another, for I have come across the numerals and names
of several regiments who were once there, that are not on the official
list.

Sincerely,

R. Patterson

Page 156 Navies in the Mountains by H. Bird speaks of Lieutenant
John André of the British 7th Foot. He was among the 8 lieutenants
who surrendered at Ft. St. Johns Nov. 1775.

C O P Y

Public Archives, Ottawa.

Our file No. 60-7722/3520.

Excerpt:

3. Lewis Mosher

The name of Lewis Mosher appears on several muster rolls of the
Queen's Loyal Rangers, serving under Burgoyne (Manuscript Group 2,
Haldimand Papers, volume B 166, page 242, volume B 167, p. 58, p. 159
his name also appears on a return of loyalists commanded by John Peters,
May 1781, with the notation that he was at Machiche (Haldimand Papers,
volume B 167, p. 318). In 1788 Lewis Mosher, late of Saratoga and
presently residing at South River applied for compensation for his
losses suffered during the American Revolution and was awarded 40 pounds
(Manuscript Group 12, Audit Office Series 12, vol. 32, pp. 138-139,
vol. 64, p. 334).

Comment by R. Patterson:

In the reference that Lewis Mosher, of the Queen's Loyal Rangers,
was in May 1781, at Machiche, I have since come across the location of
this place. It is Yamachiche, just west of Three Rivers.

*Mosher W.F. 376 Brock St Kingston 1876
will write to you*

4. Charles Mosher

In the Quebec Gazette for July 1818 there is a notice by the sheriff of the sale of the lands of Charles Mosher, of Noyan Seignior, at the suit of Napier Christie Burton.

Napier Christie Burton (d. in 1835), General in the British Army, resided in London, England, inherited the Seignior of Noyan and other seigniories along the Richelieu River, upon the death of his father, General Gabriel Christie, in 1799, see 4. Charles Mosher, P. A. sheet.

5. Thomas Freeman

The name of Thomas Freeman appears on several muster rolls of the King's Loyal Americans, commanded by Lt. Col. Ebenezer Jessup, and on a return of Loyalists, settled on Seignior of Sorel, September 1784 (M.G. 21, Haldimand Papers, vol. B 167 pp. 46, 69; vol. B 168 p. 44). According to a list of country lots in the Seignior of Sorel granted to refugee Loyalists, Freeman had been granted Lot 66, and in September 1810 had sold it to P. G. Larochelle (record Group 1, L31, Page 37155). Thomas Freeman, formerly of Stillwater in the county of Albany submitted a petition for compensation for losses suffered during the American Revolution (M.G. 12, Audit Office Series 13, vol. 81 p. 98).

6. John Scott

The name of John Scott appears on several muster rolls of the King's Loyal Americans, and he was taken prisoner in October 1777 (M.G. 21, Haldimand Papers, vol. B 166 p. 18; vol. B 167 pp. 8, 50, 65, 78, 90, 199, 391). His name also appears on a list of Loyalists embarked for Chaleur Bay June 1784 (Haldimand Papers, vol. B 168 p. 30). John Scott, formerly of the County of Albany, petitioned for compensation for losses suffered during the American Revolution (M.G. 12, Audit Office Series 13, volume 81 pp 366-367). The index to the Lower Canada Land papers in our custody contains over twenty references to the name John Scott.

E. Vincent

Mrs. E. Vincent.

Comment by Richard Patterson:

MOSHER. In the material I received from the Public Archives regarding Lewis and Charles, Thomas Freeman and John Scott, you will notice that the latter of the King's Loyal Americans, was taken prisoner in October 1777. I wrote the Public Archives again, asking them if they had further information to just what place was John Scott captured, and if I could obtain a copy of a sketch of Fort Lennox in 1871, by Lt. William O. Carlisle, of the Royal Engineers, which I just learned about recently.

Further information from Public Archives:

I have just received a reply in which it says that the document stating that John Scott was taken prisoner does not give the name of the place but as he was serving under Burgoyne, it is likely that he was captured at Bemis Heights near Saratoga, since a battle took place there on that date.

Continued:

In regard to John Freeman, who served in the King's Loyal Americans under Jessup, the information supplied by the Public Archives is about the same as the copy you let me have of the Claim of Thomas Freeman, son of John Freeman, except the following "Payment of 80 pounds for the claim of John Freeman, late of Saratoga was approved and was to be made to Thomas Freeman, late of Saratoga and now residing at South River."

In regard to the sheriff's Sale of the Lands of Charles Mosher, of Hoyal Seignior, at the suit of Wopier Christie Burton (Quebec Gazette, 28 July 1818), this apparently was a common occurrence during those times. The Christies, like others, had agents, and obviously when the settlers didn't make settlement at the time the former lost no time in taking action. I believe Wopier Christie Burton did not reside in Canada.
R. Patterson

Lewis Mosher:
Pay roll of Lieut. Col. John Peter's Rangers, 1777.

Lewis Mosher, Oct. 24, 1777. "Subsistence wanted for the Queen's Loyal Rangers commanded by Lt. Col. Peters on the Expedition under the command of Lt. Genl. Burgoyne, commencing 25th of June and ending Oct. 24th Oct. 1777. Lewis Mosher commencing August 20, 65 days to Oct. 24th.

Lewis Mosher, "A list of Captain Simeon Covill's Company as they served in Burgoyne's campaign 1777." Entered Aug. 20, served 66 days" Came to Canada". Signed Gershom French, Acting Adjutant, Peters Corps.

Lewis Mosher, Jan. 29, 1778, at La Chine "Muster Roll of His Majesty's Battalion of Queens Loyal Rangers, commanded by Lieut. Col. John Peters.

Lewis Mosher (Mossier) Listed under 1778 but no date given "A Return of Men & Family attached to Col. Peter's Corps" shows Lewis had a wife and one child. Return is signed by Justus Sherwood.

Lewis Mosher, "Return of the Age, Size, Time of Service and Country of Capt. Justus Sherwood's Company, 1st Jan. 1783, River du Chene.
Lewis Mosher, 27, 5', 9", service 5 years 4 months

Lewis Mosher, late of Saratoga: at St. Johns in Jessups Corp; now lives (1788) at South River, lost all personal property. Thomas Freeman, late of Saratoga. His brother-in-law. Lewis Mosher remembers John Freeman's farm at Stillwater. It was on this farm that the Battle of Saratoga was fought. Thomas Freeman resides (1788) on South River. (Henryville, P.Q.)

Copied from the New York 1790 Census book by E. J. Struthers. (Stanstead, P.Q.)
Still water, Albany Co. in 1790, evidently was quite a town, with a pop. of 3,071. Voted in list this town:-

No Baker, Amos 1 1 4 The first column: Free white males 16
" Paul 1 3 2 or over; 2nd column: Free white males
" Edy 2 1 3 1 under 16; 3rd column: Free white female
Sax, Jacob 1 2 3 including heads of families, 4th column:
slaves.

Shown in Hudson Town, Columbia Co. are a lot of Vandusens, VonHosens.
I checked back on Stillwater and found: Henry Mosher 1 2 3
Charles Freeman 1 4 3

MOSHER FAMILY

- Mosier (Moysher), Abraham, of Dutchess County militia. (no date)
- Mosher, Benj., Jan. 21, 1783, King's Rangers at St. Johns; age 17, served 5 years 9 months from Dutchess County.
- Mosher, Benjamin, Jan. 24, 1784, List of the officers and men of Major James Rogers.
- Mosier, Christopher, 1777; Jan. 24, 1778, at Vercheres, His Majesty's American Volunteers; June 24, 1780, at St. Johns.
- Mosher, Christopher, Jan. 1, 1783, at River du Chene, Loyal Rangers.
- Mosher, Corporal, Feb. 22, 1783, of Major Jessup's Corps.
- Mosher, Daniel, April 23, 1778.
- Mosher, Ephraim, Oct. 9, 1780, of Charlotte Precinct, Dutchess County.
- Mosher, Esack, Aug. 23, 1778, Sept. 30, 1778, Lt. Col. John Peter's Rangers.
- Mosher, Glideon, June 10, 1779, in Capt. Haight's Company, Col. Harper's Regt.
- Mosier, Hezekiah, May 29, 1778, of Cambridge, N. Y.
- Mosher, Hugh, Sept. 11, 1781, lived at Hick's Hollow, Dutchess County. Enlisted with Butler's Rangers at Niagara.
- Mosher, Jabush, Feb. 2, 1776, Cambridge, N. Y.
- Mosher, Jabez, Aug. 27, 1777.
- Mosher, John, Dec. 12, 1782, he was one of the garrison at Loyal Block House, Dutchman's Point. (North Hero, Vt.)
- Mosher, Lewess, Dec. 23, 1783, also at Loyal Block House when he received his discharge as appears on page 19 of Sherwood's day book (From PRO Montpelier). He served 12 musters from 25, 1781 to Dec 24, 1783. He received 1/8/2 as balance due him.
- Mosher, Lewis, late of Saratoga; at St. Johns in Jessup's Corps; now lives (1788) at South River; lost all personal property. Thomas Freeman, late of Saratoga. His brother-in-law, Lewis Mosher, remembers John Freeman's farm at Stillwater. It was on this farm the battle of Saratoga was fought. Thomas Freeman resides (1788) on South River.
- Mosher, Lewis, Pay roll of Lieut. Col. John Peter's Rangers, 1777.
- Mosher, Lewes, Jan 29, 1778, at La Chine "Muster Roll of His Majesty's Battalion of Queens Loyal Rangers, commanded by Lieut. Col. John Peters.
- Mosier, Lewiss, listed under 1778 but no date given. "A return of Men & Family's attached to Col. Peters' Corps" shows Lewiss had a wife and one child, Return is signed by Justus Sherwood.
- Mosher, Lewis, Oct. 24, 1777. "Subsistance wanted for the Queens Loyal Rangers commanded by Lieut. Col. Peters on the Expedition under the command of Lt. Genl. Burgoyne, commencing 25th June and ending 24th Oct. 1777. Lewis Mosher commencing August 20th, 65 days to Oct. 24th.
- Mosher, Lewis, "Return of the Age, Size, Time of Service and Country of Col. Justus Sherwood's Company, 1st, Jan. 1783, River du chene", Lewis Mosher, 27, 5'9", service 5 years 4 months.
- Mosher, Lewis, "a list of Capt. Simeon Covil's Company as they served in Burgoyne's Campaign 1777". Entered Aug. 20, served 66 days "Come to Canada". Signed Gershom French, Acting Adjutant, Peters Corps.

MOSHER FAMILY CONTINUED

Mosher, Mary, John Freeman, Late of Saratoga, Thomas Freeman says he is his son. John died at St. Johns 1777, leaving children Mary Mosher (Mozier) at South River; Dorcas Scott at South River. Lewis Mosher is brother-in-law to Thomas Freeman; another brother-in-law is John Scott. 615

Mosher, Nicholas, Return of Capt. John W. Meyers Company of Loyal Rangers, Jan. 1st, 1783, at River du Chene.

Mosher, (Mosier) William, his name appears among the subscribers to the Association of Marlborough, Wister County, N. Y. Dated June 6, 1778.

Mosier, (Moshier) William, Ensign "A Return of the Vacansyes in Col. Thos. Thomas' Redgt of West Chester County meletia?" William Mosher, ensign to be appointed 2nd Lieutenant - no date, but apparently Jan. 1781.

Mosher, William, appears (1781) as Captain in Westchester County Levies in Van Rensselaer's Brigade.

Mosher, Silas, (Hemenway's Gazetteer III, p 943) upon the rolls of the Pittsford, Vt. company in the Revolution.

Sources

Public Papers of George Clinton.

Haldimand Papers.

Public Record Office, Montpelier, Vt.

Ontario Bureau of Archives.

Audit Office, Ottawa.

Historical research done by Mr. O. E. Bredenberg, historian, of North Hero, Vt., and reproduced here by Mr. Richard. Patterson, historian of the Richelieu Valley, of 630 Moffat Ave., Verdun 204, Quebec.

In the event of usage of any part of the enclosed information, credit must be given to the original sources.

Richard. Patterson.

John Freeman

From the Fort Ticonderoga Museum Bulletin Vol. 1, No 4 p 23.

Nov. 3, 1775

St Johns

From the Diary of Rev. Benj. Trumbull.

Lt. John Freeman, 7th Regt., was killed about 4 days before the Surrender of the Forts, by a Canon Ball from our East Battery. No

The above record from the Fort Ticonderoga Museum is I believe the true record of John Freeman's death. So far as I can determine the only information on John Freeman in Ottawa is the Claims List made in Montreal March 1788. The statement that Freeman joined Burgoyne's Army in 1775 is correct. The date of death is in error. He was killed Nov. 1775 and all his papers were lost. His daughters married Lewis Mosher and John Scott after they joined Burgoyne's army in August 1777 and came to Canada.

Lutka Struthers.

The Unknown Fort, the diary of a siege, page 61 & 62.

1775 Oct. 14, A dreadful day. Two deserters came in very early this morning. They told us that reinforcements would soon arrive and that the enemy camp was plagued with sickness and a shortage of provisions. Montgomery had also a problem in maintaining his force. Today we have undergone however, our worst cannonade since the siege began. At about 10 o'clock all the enemy batteries within range open fire. A 13-inch shell scored a direct hit on the northern redoubt. M. Antoine Foucher, a volunteer, told me that this shell broke most of the partitions and the chimney, and ricocheted into the yard where it struck Mr. Freeman, Lieutenant of the Royal Fusiliers; it left him dead. Quite near me, in the southern redoubt, a barrel of gunpowder exploded, killing one of my companions and wounding three. The enemy brought three batteries to bear on us; two mortars just to the south, four cannon directly across the river and several cannon just the north.

Oct. 15, - Bitter cold. Many of the men slept in the cellars, others had to keep on the move throughout the night to keep warm. Pierre Cotté, the cook for the volunteer officers, had his two legs shot off by a cannon shell. He is dead. A soldier from the Royal Fusiliers was also wounded on the thigh when he went out to fetch water. At certain times our redoubts resembled an inferno. I still have dysentery and many others are being sapped by it. Our daily fare: salt pork and a few roots. This morning no less than 140 shot were fired at us.

Oct. 16- Red-hot shot had been fired at our schooner which damaged it considerably. Our redoubts are now in a bad condition; the ditches are full of mud, the traverses shattered, the platforms broken and the buildings gutted. Rather displeased, the commandant remarked this morning on the rubble scattered about everywhere. We have not the time to clean the place. Our rum and wine are exhausted. We have reduced our food ration to 2/3 of the usual allowance. A soldier had his arm shot off and at least four others were wounded while playing cards. Firing was also heard towards Chambly.

The Unknown Fort

Written by Jacques Castonguay, Chaplain at the
College Militaire Royal de St. Jean
Distributeur: Éditions Du Levrier, 2715 Chemin de la Côte St. Jean, St. Jean, N.B.

*The Unknown Fort, written by Jacques Castonguay,
Chaplain at the College Militaire Royal de St. Jean*

Haldimand Papers, 1783

Feb. 1/83

x429

The 13th, 4 O'clock in the afternoon, Sherwood at Loyal Block House in looking to the southward observed a sleigh approaching on the ice at more ordinary speed, for the driver was lashing the horse unmercifully. He had not long to wait for as the driver got within earshot, he shouted that one hundred sleighs and five hundred men were on their way to attack this post and Point au Fer. They had already crossed the Hudson at Fort Edward. John Savage, when he got his breath said it had taken him 4 days from Castleton. He informed that some people conjectured that this expedition was a political maneuver and the ultimate design was against Oswego. However, Savage was of the opinion that "nothing but the present thaw has prevented their being here before now". Their commanding officer was Colonel Willet, "and the expedition wherever intended was so privately conducted that it was never suspected till the 10th instant; in the night the farmers with their horses and sleighs were pres'd by arm'd party's and instantly drove to Saratoga". Sherwood sent the following letter to Major Nairne at once.

Haldimand B178, 88

x429

"On the 11th, Willet had marched 200 men to Scanactada and gave out publicly that they were going to take Oswego, which reports had informed was garrisoned by only 45 men. On the 12th they turned their course, being reinforced by 1,000 men". Sherwood continued; "Mr Savage says he was with Mr A (Ethan?) last Thursday evening; that he appear'd much surprized at the amazing expedition and secrecy, with which this Affair has been conducted, not having heard of it, till that morning, about daylight, a friend arrived express from Saratoga to A... with the news, on which, he immediately issued an order for mustering the militia. He sent for Mr. Savage and requested him to get a good pilot and come through the woods, with all possible expedition to me with the news. He said altho' he was fearful for Vermont, he was still more so for this Post and Point Aux Fer, for he was suspicious

that Washington meditated some blow against our frontiers(while he conceived us in a state of security) to raise the spirits of the people,as he once did at Trentown,by surprising the Germans. Mr.Savage says that A... seemed undetermined what to do in case they came to Vermont,but desir'd him to inform me that he believed he should suffer them to take possession of Castleton quietly and endeavour to avoid hostilities as long as possible. The Governor and Council is at the assembly on Connecticut River. Mr.Savage will go directly back and return here again as soon as possible I shall send Mr.Wright and Crowfoot off tomorrow morning to A... for intelligence,but shall not write. PS Genl A... forbid Colonel Clark coming here and the flagg,mentioned in my last,with familys are detained on account of the allarm. Mr.Savage says A... and Major Br...n are as zealously attached to Government as any men can be; the Governor is not so firmly fix'd in principle,but will be governed by A... and his own interest. Colonel Cl..K will be where he finds the strongest force,and would,he believes,kill his father for money. About one third of the ruling men are for Government from sound principles;another third from their attachment to Vermont and aversion to New York;the other third,he thinks,will be guided by the fortunes of war;the common people will accept any Government rather than New York..."

Maldinand B138, 117

2-22-83

The 22d Major Nairne advised Riedesel "Corporal Moshier of Major Jessup's Corps arrived here(Isle aux Noix) last night from the Colonys by way of Dutchmans Point and brought 5 young men with him,who declare they have come to serve His Majesty. Corporal Moshier says he has been at Hoosack,near Albany,and in other parts of that country for the last three months; that he met Mr. Savage near the Lake and they came together to Dutchman's Point; he talks but coolly on the subject of this alarm; however,that he had heard there were slays preparing,and it was suposed some Expedition was intended and that 1200 Continental troops were assembled at Albany,out he was not himself at that place and

that he heard the troops, who were lately at Saratoga, were gone to Albany and some 9-months men come to Saratoga... The roads are now impassable for a horse between this place and Point au Fer, but it has been for some days past, convenient for going in Batteaux from the Island to within five miles of Point au Fer. The four slays proceeded from hence yesterday morning for the Loyal Block House."

haldimand B138, 120

2-22-83

Riedesel on the 22d wrote Quebec of just receiving a dispatch from Sherwood confirming the first intelligence of the enemy's intentions, but he could not believe that so roundabout maneuver as thro Fort Edward would mean that Oswego was the objective. He opined that "their subduing Vermont or attacking our advanced posts must be the object. Perhaps the heavy rain and violent thaw that prevailed a few days ago may have retarded their march, or hearing the preparations made in the vicinity of Point au Fer has induced them to lay aside their scheme." The German general announced that he had increased Major Campbell's strength to 600 men and two more field pieces

haldimand B162, 15

x431

The 22d Sherwood was really alarmed for a few moments at least, as he saw a sleigh with two horses approaching rapidly from the south. It proved to be James Spooner and John Bingham, sent off "by order of our friends from Vermont". They inform us as follows; The day Mr. Savage left Castletown, the enemy march'd from Fort Edward northward through White Creek with about 800 men, 100 sleighs and six field pieces. From the Course they took, it was suppos'd they meant to take Skeansborough. "Our friends fearing Mr Savage would not get nere (Loyal Block House) to inform us of their approach, dispatch'd these two men with instructions to drive day and night, if possible, till they arriv'd here. they came to the four Brothers and there found the Ice impassible from one side of the Lake to the other. After endeavouring for one day to no purpose, they Encamp'd, determined to watch the Lake, and if they discovered the Enemy coming on, to leave their Sleigh and

Come through the woods. After lying by four days, the Ice strengthen'd so much they ventur'd to drive between the two West Brothers, but for three miles in length the Ice bent under them so that in many places the water was six or eight inches deep on the top of it. They are so positive that no sleighs could pass there now, that they say they would not for the whole world venture back where they came, which they know to be the only place on which they could have passed. If it should be possible for one or two empty Sleighs to pass, at the risque they have, it is impossible for any number to do it & especially if they are loaded. From these circumstances, it appears to me that the Enemy cannot pass the lake with artillery, and it is not probable they will come without it. On this presumption I have sent back four of the Canadian trains. The other two are station'd at Colchester Point, to facilitate intelligence if the enemy should be discovered. As the two men dare not venture back on the Ice, I shall give them the King's rations and my own hay and shall employ them in hawling wood for the Garrison.. as they came for the purpose of giving intelligence, they have neither provision, provender nor baggage..."

With this episode, military activities on Lake Champlain virtually came to an end.

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In the event of future use of this historical material, credit must be given original sources.

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